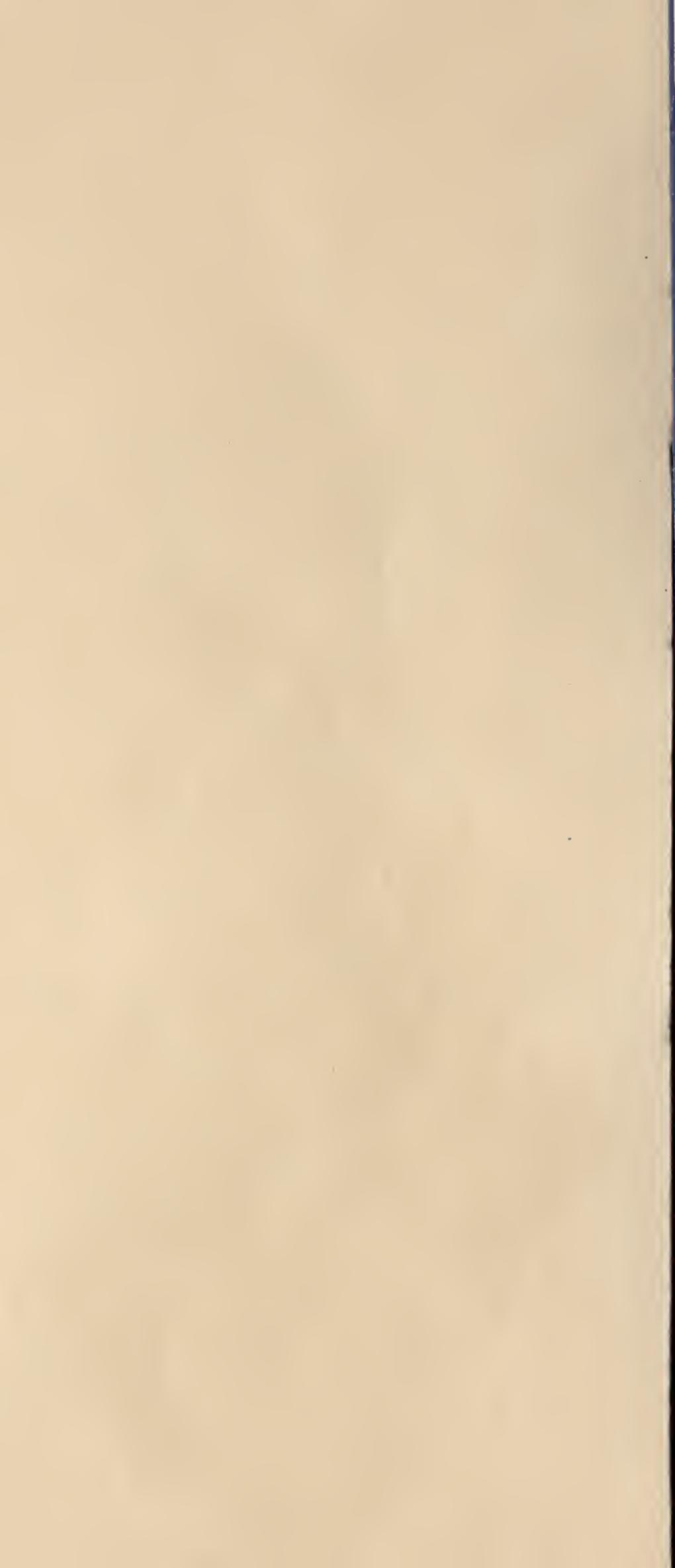


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# ng a Different in International Forestry Development

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## The Forestry Support Program



K. Hunter

# The Forestry Support Program

The Forestry Support Program provides technical assistance in forestry and natural resources to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Peace Corps. The goals of the Forestry Support Program (FSP) are to reduce forest and related natural resource deterioration threatening the resource base of the rural poor and to increase sustainable use of forest resources around the world.



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1. Slash-and-burn clearing of tropical forests.
2. Deterioration of soil resources in Nepal.

## Confronting a Global Challenge

The removal of tropical forests is occurring at unprecedented rates throughout the world. Aggregate forest area in developing countries alone is estimated to have declined by half during this century and continues to decline at an annual rate of approximately 11 million hectares (about 28 million acres)—roughly the size of the state of Pennsylvania or about 2½ times the size of Costa Rica. Forest loss stems from many causes such as conversion of land for agriculture and grazing, collection of fuelwood and fodder, and demand for industrial forest products. This loss threatens the stability of fragile ecosystems around the world.



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T. Resch

During the last decade, there has been increased awareness of the many diverse roles that forests play in meeting the basic needs of the world's rural poor. Local communities derive a broad range of benefits from trees. These include fuelwood, fodder, fruits, nuts, fibers, traditional medicines, oils, gums, and other edible and saleable products. Trees provide shelter and shade. They also reduce effects of soil erosion and help sustain soil fertility, water quality, and wildlife habitat. A variety of social, economic, and natural resource problems are thus inextricably linked to deforestation and environmental degradation.



T. Resch



T. Resch

3. Food aid-supported forestry programs.
4. USAID-sponsored sawmill in Gambia.
5. Deforestation threatens the extinction of many animal species.
6. Women in Nepal play an important role in natural resource management.
7. Selecting eucalyptus housing material in Morocco.
8. Roadside firewood market in Senegal.

## Making a Difference

Leaders of developing countries increasingly recognize that their present and future economic well-being is severely threatened if a sound and sustainable natural resource base is not maintained. Many countries are encouraging natural resource and environmental development programs and are working closely with the United States in these efforts.

### Agency for International Development—Taking a Leadership Role

In 1979, the U.S. Congress authorized USAID, through an amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to increase its bilateral development assistance dealing with



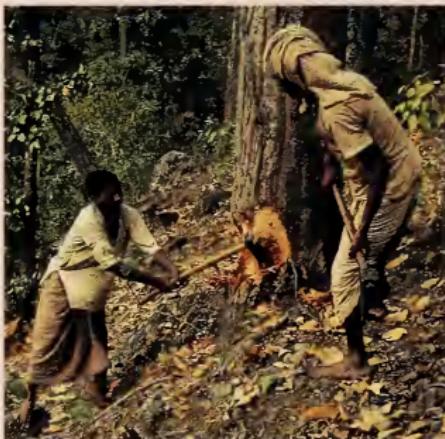
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depletion of forests and associated soil and water resources. With this mandate, USAID has taken a leadership role in supporting developing countries as they strive to cope with their varied natural resource problems.

In the late 1980's, USAID supported over 170 tropical forestry projects, through annual expenditures of nearly \$80 million, in some 50 developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Near East, and Latin America and the Caribbean. With growing national and international concern and explicit mandates from the U.S. Congress through foreign assistance legislation, it is anticipated USAID will continue to exercise its leadership role through its development assistance and food aid-supported projects.



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- 9.** Fodder collection in Nepal. **10.** Forestry crew in Morocco.  
**11.** Local timber harvesting in Nepal. **12.** Peace Corps forestry training workshop in Botswana. **13.** Tree improvement research.



## **Forestry Support Program—Focusing U.S. Forestry Assistance**

In recognition of the urgent need to enhance the role and success of forestry development and to fulfill a variety of associated objectives, in 1981, USAID formed the Office of Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources, within the Bureau for Science and Technology.

To enhance USAID's capabilities to design, implement, and evaluate forestry projects, FSP, a unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service, International Forestry Staff, was established in 1981. FSP is jointly managed by the USDA Forest Service and the Office of International Cooperation and Development with funds provided through USAID's Forest Resources Management Project. Almost \$20 million was appropriated for this project over the first decade, with continued activities anticipated through the next.

### **The Forestry Support Program's Role**

The Forestry Support Program carries out its role in forestry and natural resource development through a number of specific support activities:

- **Technical consultations**—To provide USAID's regional bureaus, regional offices, and field missions with technical advice and project design assistance in the areas of tropical forestry, biological diversity, conservation, and natural resources.
- **Roster development and referrals**—To develop and manage a roster of forestry and natural resource experts used to identify qualified individuals for long-term and short-term USAID or cooperative USAID-Peace Corps assignments overseas.
- **Forestry program studies and technical reference services**—To provide technical forestry information to USAID and Peace Corps staffs and to facilitate the exchange of technical information among natural resource project personnel.
- **Forestry training**—To organize forestry training courses, develop training materials, provide advice to forestry schools and other organizations on curriculum design, assist USAID in designing training components for forestry projects, and provide a communications link between USAID and educational institutions in the United States.
- **Research support**—To provide USAID with technical support in forestry research.
- **Forestry Private Enterprise Initiative**—To stimulate forest-based enterprise by focusing on potential market enhancement, strengthening private institutions, expanding related income and employment opportunities,

encouraging policy dialogue, and executing related research.

- **Forestry-Agriculture Initiative**—To promote linkages between forestry and agriculture for sustainable development in USAID's natural resource projects and research.
- **Food aid-supported forestry and voluntary activities**—To provide technical oversight and guidance to food aid-related forestry programs carried out through the Agriculture Trade Development and Assistance Act (Public Law 480) and to facilitate USAID interaction with private voluntary organizations and nongovernmental organizations.
- **Social Forestry Initiative**—To identify, design, monitor, and evaluate the social science aspects of USAID's forestry and natural resource projects.



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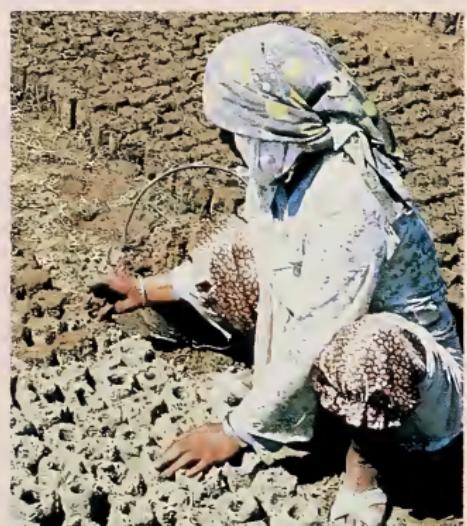
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## Staff Resources

The Washington, DC-based professional staff of FSP has extensive foreign and domestic experience in the following areas:

Agroforestry  
Arid and semiarid forestry  
Biological diversity  
Biomass energy  
Communication and extension  
Economic analysis  
Forestry research  
Park planning and nature tourism

Plantation management  
Project design, implementation, and evaluation  
Reforestation  
Silviculture  
Social and community forestry  
Training and education  
Tree improvement  
Wildlands management

The Forestry Support Program will continue to evolve and diversify its support services to help fulfill the goals of USAID as it responds to worldwide forestry and natural resource needs.



Academy for Educational Development

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14. Training young elephant for logging in Thailand. 15. Eucalyptus plantation in Morocco. 16. Encouraging national park establishment in tropical forests. 17. Tree nursery preparation in Africa. 18. Tree planting in Peru. 19. Preserving biological diversity.



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## A Mandate from the U.S. Congress

The Congress recognizes that the accelerating loss of forests and tree cover in developing countries undermines and offsets efforts to improve agricultural production and nutrition and otherwise to meet the basic human needs of the poor. . . . In order to maintain and increase forest resources, the President is authorized to provide assistance . . . for forestry projects. . . . Emphasis shall be given to community woodlots, agroforestry, reforestation, protection of watershed forests, and more effective forest management. *A 1979 amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.*

## Information

To learn more about the Forestry Support Program roster and FSP assistance, write to the following address:

Forestry Support Program  
International Forestry  
USDA Forest Service  
P.O. Box 96090  
Washington, DC 20090-6090  
Telex number: 7401043 FSPW



*The Forestry Support Program is managed jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and Office of International Cooperation and Development, with funds provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Science and Technology, through its Office of Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources.*

United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

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